

REMARKS

I. Introduction

The final Office Action of January 30, 2009 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 14-26 were previously pending in the above-identified application. The present Amendment amends claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 in accordance with the originally-filed specification. No new matter has been added. In addition, the present amendment cancels claims 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 23, 25, and 26. Accordingly, claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 are currently pending in this application, each of which is in independent form. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and favorable reconsideration of the claims.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 are directed to allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 each previously depended from independent claim 14. Although the Applicants do not agree with the rejection set forth in the final Office Action of January 30, 2009, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 have each been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (independent claim 14). Accordingly, claims 16, 20, 22, and 24 are now in allowable form.

III. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 14, 18, 21, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness by United States Patent No. 6,870,939 to Chiang et al. (hereinafter "the Chiang patent") in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 08-95572 to Masatake et al. (hereinafter "the Masatake publication"). Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness by the Chiang patent in view of the Masatake publication and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,243,474 to Tai et al. Claims 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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§103(a) for obviousness by the Chiang patent in view of the Masatake publication and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2002-223499 to Takehide et al.

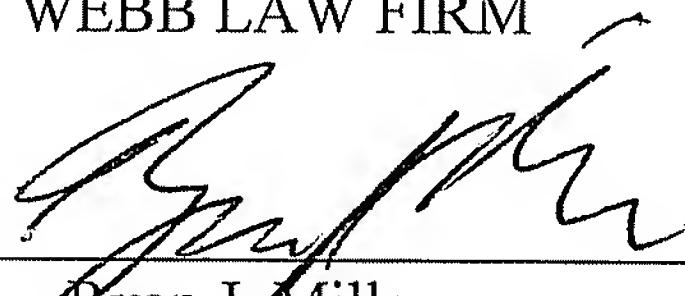
The present amendment cancels claims 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 23, 25, and 26, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of pending claims 16, 20, 22, and 24. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss the application in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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